

STOPPING GUN VIOLENCE THROUGH PUBLIC AWARENESS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to make my colleagues aware of one of the many organizations working to bring an end to the gun violence problem in this country, the PAX organization based in New York City. According to their Web site, PAX is "the largest non-political, nonprofit organization dedicated to ending the gun violence epidemic in America." As part of its public health campaigns, PAX promotes commonsense solutions to help protect families, teenagers, and children from the tragedy of gun violence.

One national program run by PAX, known as the Asking Saves Kids or ASK Campaign, encourages parents to simply ask other parents if there are guns in the homes where their children play. According to statistics cited by the ASK Campaign, more than 40 percent of households with children have guns. In the overwhelming majority of these households, the child also knows where the gun is hidden. Using public service advertising and grassroots education, the ASK Campaign is working to prevent accidental shootings involving children by encouraging parents to take common sense steps to protect their children. The ASK Campaign is a partnership between PAX and the Academy of Pediatrics and is supported by more than 400 organizations nationwide including the American Medical Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, the Children's Defense Fund, and the Police Executive Research Forum.

According to PAX, in 75 percent of the school shootings in our country, the attackers told other students of their plans prior to the attack. In addition, PAX states that students bring more than 100,000 guns to school every day. To help address these issues, PAX has created the Speak Up Campaign. The centerpiece of the campaign is a national hotline, 1-866-SPEAK-UP, where children and teenagers can call to anonymously report threats involving weapons at their school. Since the creation of the hotline in 2002, the Speak Up Campaign has received more than 5,000 calls which were then passed along to appropriate law enforcement officials. To increase public awareness of school violence prevention and the Speak Up hotline, the campaign has created an outreach program for schools and other community organizations. PAX has also partnered with various cable networks including MTV, NBC, ABC, and CBS to help reach children, teens, and parents with its message.

I thank the PAX organization and their partners for their work to end gun violence. Their commonsense approach provides families with practical solutions to help protect themselves from the tragedy of gun violence. I am hopeful that the 109th Congress will do more to support their efforts by taking up and passing sensible gun safety legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BOND, Mr. BURNS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 1411. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a pilot program to provide regulatory compliance assistance to small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. DORGAN:

S. 1412. A bill to prohibit the merger, acquisition, or takeover of Unocal Corporation by CNOOC Ltd. of China; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself and Mr. BIDEN):

S. 1413. A bill to redesignate the Crowne Plaza in Kingston, Jamaica, as the Colin L. Powell Residential Plaza; considered and passed.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 1414. A bill to provide for the conduct of a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Trail of the Ancients National Heritage Area in the Four Corners region of the States of Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 757

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 757, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

S. 969

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 969, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to preparation for an influenza pandemic, including an avian influenza pandemic, and for other purposes.

S. 1089

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1089, a bill to establish the National Foreign Language Coordination Council to develop and implement a foreign language strategy, and for other purposes.

S. 1112

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1112, a bill to make permanent the enhanced educational savings provisions for qualified tuition programs enacted as part of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.

S. 1174

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1174, a bill to authorize the President to posthumously award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Robert M. La Follette, Sr., in recognition of his important contributions to the Progressive movement, the State of Wisconsin, and the United States.

S. 1249

At the request of Mr. CORZINE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1249, a bill to require the Secretary of Education to rebate the amount of Federal Pell Grant aid lost as a result of the update to the tables for State and other taxes used in the Federal student aid need analysis for award year 2005-2006.

At the request of Mr. CORZINE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1249, supra.

S. 1265

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1265, a bill to make grants and loans available to States and other organizations to strengthen the economy, public health, and environment of the United States by reducing emissions from diesel engines.

S. 1317

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1317, a bill to provide for the collection and maintenance of cord blood units for the treatment of patients and research, and to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Bone Marrow and Cord Blood Cell Transplantation Program to increase the number of transplants for recipients suitably matched to donors of bone marrow and cord blood.

S. 1325

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1325, a bill to establish grants to provide health services for improved nutrition, increased physical activity, obesity and eating disorder prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 1358

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1358, a bill to protect scientific integrity in Federal research and policymaking.

S. 1388

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1388, a bill to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes.